## PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Cox et al.

Applin. No.: 10/775,746

Filing Date: February 10, 2004

Title: METHOD FOR CUSTOMIZING
A BURIAL VAULT CARAPACE

Examiner: William Miller
Group Art Unit: 3677

Docket No. Cox-1

Mail Stop No Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 1 CHAIRY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IZ ARING FACSIMILE TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. PATERT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (FAX No. (571) 273–8300), ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SKINING THIS CURTIFICATE:

## Declaration of Christi Cox

I, Christi Cox, am one of the named inventors. I am a Funeral Director for the past 7 years.

I have read the Pazar publication (U.S. Publication 2003/0167706) and the Takemoto patent (U.S. 4,219,596), and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to modify a carapace as disclosed by the Pazar reference to incorporate aspects of the Takemoto patent.

Prior to our invention, no one had previously applied a decorative substrate to a carapace as recited in the pending claims. Prior to our invention, the carapace was merely a bland, undecorated slab of concrete or carapace.

We identified a need in the market which had not previously been tapped. Prior to our invention, no one was even aware that there was an unmet need. Our solution to this need is

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technically simple, but novel and non-obvious. Our invention has had recognition in various magazines and media outlets.

As further evidence of the non-obviousness of our invention we note that the invention is now being copied by a number of our competitors.

All of the statements herein are based on information and belief, and are believed to be true.

I acknowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 USC 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christi Cox 415 E. Dixon St. Polo, IL 61064